The following village roads *viz.*, (*a*) the road connecting the Todupuzha-Kaliyar road and the Varapatti-Naduvakkad road (*b*) the road from Karinkunnam *via* Purapuzha to Vazhithala and (*c*) the road *via* Manakkadu to Arikuzha should be converted into public roads.

The maintenance grant allotted for the Karikkodu-Sankarapilli road should be enhanced and the road should be widened.

The proposals made by Mr. John Kurian in connection with his inland navigation scheme should be brought into effect in regard to the Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and Kaliyar rivers.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Thomman Joseph, the question of a road programme for Todupuzha will be taken up when the newly constituted board for internal communications comes into existence.

**43. Means of communication in the Muvattupuzha taluk.**

MR. EIPE ANTONY (*Member, Muvattupuzha taluk*) said that the taluks of North Travancore stood sadly behind the other taluks of the State in the matter of means of communication. This was a fact well known to Government and one which was impressed upon them in successive sessions of the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. As a result of repeated representations in these houses, Government had declared that the question of opening more roads in North Travancore was engaging their particular attention. A few roads had accordingly been sanctioned some years back and for these provision was being made from year to year in the Budget, but the funds only lapsed every time the provision was made. There were also a few roads in respect of which work was started only to be dropped in no time. All this remissness was due primarily to the fact that Muvattupuzha could not boast of having any of her sons in the Public Works Department or for that matter in any department of the public service. Had she possessed a few officers in the Public Works Department, her fate would have been far better. There were also no people from Muvattupuzha in the Land Revenue Department. The result was that there was lamentable delay in the acquisition of lands etc., by that department for roads and other public works in Muvattupuzha. Such remissness on the part of officers could under existing conditions be removed only by the infliction of severe punishments by Government. Another grievance of the people of Muvattupuzha was that for every application they made for a road, they met with the answer that they should first surrender lands free of cost and secondly they should lay out the roads themselves, Government undertaking only their maintenance. This demand would have been just, had Government opened at least the main arterial roads in the taluk as they had done elsewhere and then asked the people to meet the cost of the minor roads. But before they had done so, they could not in fairness to the people of Muvattupuzha, make this demand of them,

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The following were some of the more urgent needs of the taluk :—

(1) The extension of the railway to North Travancore should be taken up immediately.

(2) The following roads should be completed, wherever necessary, and converted into cartable roads ;—

(*a*) the ryots' road from Kuzhikandam to Neduvakattu *via* Varapatti and Pothanikadu ;

(*b*) the incomplete road from Muvattupuzha to Palakuzha *via* Arakuzha ;

(*c*) the road from the Kothamangalam market to the Vazhakulam market ;

(*d*) the road from Thrikariyur to the Periyar bank *via* Vettilapara ;

(*e*) the road from the H. R. road, 8th mile to Peruvinnur.

(3) The following new roads should be opened as early as possible :—

(*a*) a road from near the Perumpavur-Kothamangalam road, 8th mile, *via* Kottapadi to the Kuruppumpadi-Kuttikal road ;

(*b*) a road from near the Mathirapally mosque on the Muvattupuzha-Kothamangalam road to the middle of the Kuzhikandam-Varapatti road ;

(*c*) a road from the Piravam-Ramamangalam road to Arakuzha on the Muvattupuzha-Palakuzha road ;

(*d*) a road from the Kothamangalam market to the banks of the Kothamangalam river.

In addition to the above, the road which the people had laid out from near the Muvattupuzha-Palakuzha road, 6th mile, to near the Arakuzha boys' school and girls' school should be extended to the Vazhakulam-Vazhithala road and it should be made cartable ; a bridge should be constructed at Kuzhikandam *kadavu* on the road from the Muvattupuzha-Kothamangalam road to Neduvakattu ; the street at Kothamangalam should be converted into a cartable road and connected with the neighbouring road ; the road from about the 3rd mile, Muvattupuzha-Kothamangalam road, to the P. K. road should be completed soon ; and the road from the Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road to Kalavur *via* Kumaramangalam should be extended to the Kothamangalam-Pallivasal road, 4th mile, *via* Paingottur market, and from thence to the Palamattom road *via* Peruvinnur and it should be made a cartable road.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Eipe Antony, when the road board is constituted, which, I trust, will be before long, the requirements in the matter of communications in your taluk will be placed before it.

**44. Opening of a road along the southern bank of the Parur Vedimara thodu so as to begin from the northern opening of the Cheriapalli thodu and end at the Thottumukhom Chowkai.**

MR. R. VENKITESWARA IYER, (*Member, Municipal Council, Parur*) said that the Parur Vedimara thodu formed the northern bounda-

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